



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas D. Taggart

Examiner: Soubra, I.

Serial No.: 09/330,763

Art Unit: 1744

Filed: 6/11/1999

DOCKET NO. STEU-2666

For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING STERILIZATION ZONES IN  
AN ASEPTIC PACKAGING STERILIZATION TUNNEL**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 22, 2002.

Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be reconsidered in view of the Amendments and Remarks that follow, that each of the presently pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

**Amendment**

Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

**In The Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) Apparatus comprising:

a sterilization tunnel for surrounding a plurality of containers with pressurized gas; and

a plurality of zones within the sterilization tunnel having different sterilant concentration

levels therein wherein the sterilant concentration levels in the plurality of zones are maintained at

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